

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Anwar and Rep. McCarthyVahey, Vice-Chairs Sen. Kushner, Sen. Marx and Rep. Parker, Ranking Members Sen. Somers and Rep. Klarides-Ditria, and Distinguished Members of the Public Health Committee

Re: In favor of S. B. 1076

As a retired registered nurse, who has cared for dying patients and their families, I would like to speak in favor of S.B. 1076.

For too long a terminally ill person has had no control over the end course of their illness. They are at the mercy of the disease which is causing physical suffering, anxiety and fear with the certainty that death will be the end result. The person has lost all hope of living and has no hope of dying without extended suffering, anxiety and fear.

Medical aid in dying gives autonomy to the terminally ill. The person requests the medication and administers it to them self. They can change their mind at any time. This gives the person a choice of dying on their own terms rather than waiting for the inevitable. Surely this is the most compassionate aid to give a dying person, that they have a right to die with dignity.

Dying is something we will all face sooner or later. I would find it comforting to know that, if I am diagnosed with a terminal illness, that I have an option to choose medical assistance for my death instead of lingering in a painful, declining state.

Thank you for your consideration,

Christine Denning
Wilton